

*St. Petersburg Med. Woch.* (January 6, 1879). The results of his experiments are as follows: A diluted solution of the extract. *adonis vernalis* aquosum was injected into the cranial lymph-bag of a frog, the heart of which had previously been laid bare. It was then noticed, after a certain lapse of time, which in most cases was in indirect proportion to the dose which had been injected, that the ventricle began to contract more strongly. During the diastole the surface of the latter was covered by swellings of different size, resembling aneurisms. These disappeared entirely during the diastole. In a few minutes the contractions of the ventricle decrease in number, though not in strength, and the swellings become much larger. Later on the ventricle often remained for several seconds in systole, the sinus venosus and the auricles were considerably dilated and worked unsuccessfully; at last, after two to four contractions of the auricles a small quantity of blood passed into the ventricle, which again contracted spasmodically, and this was repeated for a few minutes. At last the heart assumed a very characteristic shape, the ventricle was strongly contracted and sometimes very pale, the atrium and sinus venosus were considerably dilated. The contractions of the heart and sinus went on for some time, then stopped, and the heart ceased to beat, still retaining the shape already noted. The frog generally survived the operation, and jumped about, although his heart had ceased beating. If the heart in this state is stimulated by pricking the ventricle with a needle, it responds at first by a few contractions of the atria and the ventricle; after a while the prick only calls forth a few useless contractions of the atria. In short, after a certain time, stimulation by pricking has not the least effect in causing the heart to pulsate. The heart retains its very characteristic shape in spite of all stimulations or irritations which may be applied, such as hypodermic injections of atropin, faradic currents, section of the vagus nerve on both sides, etc. All these experiments, combined with the clinical experiences, lead to the supposition that *adonis vernalis* contains a poison analogous to digitalis, which strongly affects the heart, but has certain peculiar properties, one of them being the total absence of dangerous effects, even when this has been taken for a long time consecutively.—*London Med. Record*, Feb. 15, 1879.

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*First Insensibility from the Inhalation of Ether.*

At a late meeting of the Therapeutical Society of New York (*New York Med Journal*, March, 1879), Dr. R. F. WEIR, Chairman of the Committee on Surgical Procedures and Appliances, presented a report on the first insensibility from ether, as described by Dr. John H. Packard in the *American Journal of the Medical Sciences* for July, 1877.

Dr. Weir stated that a number of cases have been reported to the committee confirmatory of the statements of Dr. Packard, but certain differences were observed. No question as to the satisfactory degree of anæsthesia exists, but the duration of it in several instances exceeded the time allotted to it by Dr. Packard—occasionally reaching to three minutes; also, while all recollection of pain was done away with, yet at times the patients would by movement, and sometimes by cries, give evidence of sensation during the incision; and, still further, it was noticed by Dr. W. T. Bull and himself that, even when the insensibility was marked, muscular relaxation was oftentimes insufficient to permit of a reduction of a dislocation or a displaced fracture.

One case reported by Dr. Gibney shows that in chloroform inhalation the "first insensibility" exists—a point upon which Dr. Packard, from want of experience, was unable to speak. Dr. Weir adds that this "first insensibility," or, as it is commonly called in New York, "primary anæsthesia," has now become fully established in the practice of the New York and Roosevelt Hospitals.

*Dichloride of Ethidene as an Anæsthetic.*

The Scientific Grants Committee of the British Medical Association have received from a special committee a report (*British Med. Journal*, Jan. 4th and 25th, 1879) upon the action of this anæsthetic, in which it is claimed that dichloride of ethidene presents all the advantages of ether, without any of its disadvantages; and that the following opinion of Steffen, given in Binz's *Evidence of Therapeutics*, p. 39, is correct in most particulars: "It is said to have the following advantages over chloroform, which it resembles in its ultimate action, namely, a pleasanter smell, the power of producing narcosis more rapidly, as well as without excitement or vomiting, more rapid recovery without after-effects, and altogether less danger." In their experience, narcosis has not been produced more rapidly than with chloroform, but rapidity of narcosis depends very much on the mode of administration.

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 MEDICINE.
*Intravenous Injection of Milk in Anæmia.*

N. WULFSBERG has made a series of researches on animals on the effects of the intravenous injection of milk, recommended by Gaillard Thomas, as a means of preserving life in cases of hemorrhage and other forms of anæmia. He injected about 250 grammes, and examined the blood, especially with a view to determine whether, as Donné stated in 1844, the globules of milk were converted into white corpuscles. He found that the white corpuscles undoubtedly increase in number, but only after having first taken up—in fact, eaten—the milk spheres. He was unable to preserve the life of dogs by this means; their body weight diminished, and they died without obvious disease, and he found hemorrhagic infarcts in the lungs. He found it to be impossible to maintain the life of animals by subcutaneous injections of fresh milk as they became atrophic. If about .75 per cent. of the estimated weight of blood were withdrawn from dogs, they bore the intravenous injection of milk well; but when large quantities were introduced they rapidly died. The injection of milk caused the sounds of the heart, which were previously inaudible, to become clear and distinct. He thinks, however, a milk injection can never supply the place of an injection of blood.—*Lancet*, Dec. 7, 1878.

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*On the Action of Salicylate of Soda in Acute Rheumatism.*

M. EDMOND MARROT presents (*Archives Gén.*, Feb. 1878) the following conclusions concerning the action of salicylate of soda in acute rheumatism, deduced from an examination of the blood and urine:—

1. During the course of acute articular rheumatism the quantity of urine notably diminishes, the proportion of uric acid increases, and this increase is not to be explained by the diminution of the quantity of urine; the increase is absolute.
2. In those cases in which acute articular rheumatism has been left to itself, the cure is shown by a marked increase, during several days, of the quantity of urine, and by the return of the proportion of uric acid and urea to its original figure.
3. The salicylate of soda, administered during the period of acute articular rheumatism, hastens, in some degree, this natural crisis. One or two days after being administered the urine becomes very abundant, clear, and of a low density. There is a relative polyuria; the quantity of urea and of uric acid diminishes in